

Supervisor Romaine Praises the Town's INTERFACE Program at Steering Committee Meeting

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Supervisor Ed Romaine speaks at a Town Hall meeting with the the INTERFACE Program Steering Committee.

Farmingville, NY - On February 19, Supervisor Ed Romaine met with members of the Town's INTERFACE Steering Committee and praised the group for the work they have done to provide help to Brookhaven Town's less fortunate residents. The INTERFACE Steering Committee is comprised of local business and civic leaders who share their ideas, resources and connections to better provide for needy families and individuals, especially children in the Town of Brookhaven. There are approximately 125 corporations, not-for-profit agencies, community and fraternal organizations that make up INTERFACE.

"Helping those in need must be a priority of government and the private sector as well, especially during these tough economic times," said Supervisor Romaine, "Our poorest residents are the children and we need to do whatever we can to make their lives at least a little better each day and help prepare them for adulthood. I thank the INTERFACE Steering Committee, INTERFACE Coordinator Maria Polak and Neighborhood Aide Josie Lunde for giving so much of their time and talent to make sure that the less fortunate in Brookhaven Town are not forgotten."

In 2012, the INTERFACE program raised more than \$866,000 in grants, monetary donations from various organizations and private individuals, goods and services and in-kind donations. Each year, they also co-sponsor many special events including:

- "Totes for Tots," a drive to collect duffle bags, large backpacks and small suitcases for the Foster Care Program.
- "Toys for Kids," the holiday toy drive that collects thousands of toys to distribute to needy Brookhaven families.
- "Food Drives" during the holiday season or when there is an emergency food shortage at the Town's food pantries.
- "Free Prom Gowns" and accessories for young women experiencing financial difficulty. The gowns are donated by Brookhaven businesses and individuals.
- "Back to School" to help prepare youngsters with notebooks, calculators, book bags and more are distributed

through local youth agencies.

The INTERFACE Program also provides educational awareness with various community groups and colleges providing them with information on how they can better serve their town by volunteering with those less fortunate. INTERFACE was the recipient of the President's Private Sector Initiative Award, and it has also been honored by the Eleanor Roosevelt Committee of the Governor's Office of Voluntary Service. There are approximately 125 corporations, not-for-profit agencies, community and fraternal organizations that make up INTERFACE.

INTERFACE is a partnership between "good corporate neighbors and the Town Of Brookhaven," united in a common effort to provide help to Brookhaven's less fortunate residents. Through volunteerism, INTERFACE provides goods and services to those in need.

To learn more about the Town's INTERFACE Program, visit www.brookhaven.org or call 631-451-8014.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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